

The Messenger

Crievewood United Methodist Church

February 13, 2013

Pastor's Pen

Lent, Messes, and Tears

I just completed a walk around Ellington Agricultural Center with my wife. She has a wacky week requiring her to be in the four largest Tennessee cities on consecutive days (today was Nashville), so we grabbed a moment together. It was a lovely respite from computers, cell phones, to-do lists, and the great indoors, though I will say the trail was more challenging due to recent rains. Maneuvering around puddles and mud added distance and increased aerobic benefit, but was a tad messy.

A friend was in town and I was delighted to share a cup of coffee with her today, again an enjoyable break from to-do lists; technology and electronics not so much. We met at a local coffee shop and an individual at the next table had on earphones and simultaneously worked a laptop and ipad. Before leaving the place I visited the Men's restroom and noted a sign that said "Jesus weeps when you put paper towels in the toilet". Messy came to mind again.

On the one hand that sign trivializes the matters that move our Savior to tears; on the other hand the world could stand to consider divine reaction to human action more often. I won't over think that in this column, however, messy as a recurring theme was not a bad prelude to the season of Lent. Christians around the world will gather in worship on Ash Wednesday to acknowledge our mortality and sinfulness, and respond to an invitation to disciplined practice of faithful living. We will do this by having ashes in the form of a cross placed on our foreheads, often a tad messy.

Upon completion of the walk I had to wipe my shoes, but I also felt physically better and grateful for the time with Patti. Muddy trails are not unlike the experience of our Christian walk, confession is a daily need but practice strengthens our faith and we are blessed to share this journey with brothers and sisters in Christ. I left the coffee shop thankful for time with fellow travelers (a third person joined us) and reflecting on the fact that Jesus really does weep from time to time; not over men who can't tell the difference between a toilet and a trash can, but over the violence we humans do to one another. The need for repentance and reconciliation can overwhelm.

Ash Wednesday is February 13th this year and our worship service will be at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Together we will seek to begin the observance of a holy Lent by marking ourselves (literally) as followers of Jesus Christ. As was told to the children in the late service Sunday, the branches waved on Palm Sunday each year become the ashes that we use the following year. Such is the messiness of the human divine relationship that the voices which praised Jesus as he entered Jerusalem soon called for his execution.

Yet, here is the good news and the foundation of our hope: Jesus Christ died for our sins, and the sins of the whole world. From clogged toilets to muddy shoes life has its annoyances to be sure, but the Christian season of Lent draws our attention to that which keeps humanity from full, healthy, reconciled life with God and neighbor. It is a time of preparation, defined by honest self-examination, fresh commitment to our covenant life, intentional effort to live according to the example of Christ, and openness to go with Jesus on his journey to the cross. Be forewarned, the last week of Jesus life gets particularly messy, and in it Jesus really does weep (Luke 19:41); be assured we are never alone.

Peter van Eys

Up-Coming Events

Lenten Prayer

On Friday mornings during Lent you are invited to meet with Peter and/or Stephanie at 7:00 a.m. for a time of guided prayer using the book *The Awkward Season*, by Rev. Pam Hawkins. We will meet at the Panera by Target on Old Hickory Blvd. Consider joining this fellowship as a part of your observance of a holy Lent. Through scripture and prayer we will hold ourselves accountable and bring before God the needs of the world.

Missions

UMCOR Buckets

Twenty-thousand UMCOR cleaning buckets have been sent to the northeast after Hurricane Sandy depleting UMCOR's inventory. So far this year the Tennessee Conference has shipped one thousand buckets. To replenish the supply, the TN UMC Mercy and Mission Ministry has issued a challenge. By February 28 they are asking members of the conference to prepare 1,000 buckets replacing the inventory sent to Sandy victims and preparing for future needs. If you would like to help, please visit <http://bit.ly/1000bucketstory> for a description of the bucket contents and other resources.

Community Care Fellowship

Community Care Fellowship is in need of all sizes of men's undershirts and is grateful to those persons who donated items last month. We will continue to collect garments, so if you have any donation, please leave it on the table at the top of the stairwell off the narthex.

Metal Can Tabs

Thank you to everyone who has saved tabs from aluminum beverage cans. Those tabs that have been turned into the church to date have been given to the Clarksville school project to assist one of its students.

Recently Connie (Ethridge) Christophell and her husband have moved to Arizona where he will become the tight end coach for the Arizona Cardinals. Connie has resigned her teaching position in Clarksville and will no longer be delivering the metal tabs.

If you still have tabs that you have saved, you may still bring them to the church. Ronald McDonald house near Vanderbilt also collects the tabs, and we will give them to that charity.

Sofa Bed

If anyone has a sofa bed that they do not need and would like to recycle, please call the church office.

Spring Festival Candy

We need candy! Okay, we may not 'need' it, but we would love to stuff some candy into our eggs for the Spring Festival. Please drop bags of individually wrapped candy that will fit in plastic eggs in Leigh Ann's office.

Please bring non-chocolate candy in case we have warm weather. We wouldn't want a gooey, melty mess...or would we?!

Activities

Wednesday Night Fellowship

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Welcome to these spring programs on Wednesday Night.

- *Join us on February 13 at 6:30 p.m. for Ash Wednesday worship.
- *During Lent, Peter and Carter will present a Lenten study on Lenten Prayer, Praise and Reflection. Each week will feature listening to the Psalms and a Gospel passage. On February 20, Carter will begin the series, and on February 27, Peter will lead.
- *All children's choirs and preschool activities will meet in their usual spots during the Lenten season. There are no children's activities on February 13.
- *The nursery will be available for those with children two and under

Wednesday Night Menus

Wednesday, February 13- Meatloaf, new potatoes with parsley and butter sauce, peas and carrots, and dessert

Wednesday, February 20- Poppy seed chicken, green beans, rice, and dessert

Wednesday, February 27- Hamburgers with all the trimmings, potatoes, and dessert

UMM Breakfast

Our **Men's Club breakfast will be held on Saturday, February 16 at 8:00 a.m. (the third Saturday of this month)**. During our breakfast meeting on the 16th, our speaker will be Will Pinkston. Mr. Pinkston is the recently elected Metro Board of Education member representing Crieve Hall. Prior to that, he was an assistant to Phil Bredesen during his terms as Mayor and Governor. Please come as it should be a great program!

Joy Club

The JOY Club has accepted an invitation from Belmont UMC to view a one-man drama on Irving Berlin on Thursday, **February 21**. This program will be followed by a meal. The cost of the outing is \$15 which covers the meal and program plus an additional \$3 for the van. All those participating should be at the church by 9:15 a.m.; the van will return around 1:00 p.m. Please make a reservation and turn in your check (made out to Crieveview UMC) to Jean McCurdy no later than February 18.

UMW—Sadie Hawkins Meeting?

The next UMW General Meeting will be February 23 with a brunch starting at **9:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Our speaker, David Maraniss, is a Pulitzer Prize winning writer and journalist who is presently teaching at Vanderbilt University. He is the author of six books, is an associate editor of the Washington Post, and has worked on many important stories in the fields of history, politics, and sports. His topic for our meeting will be Sports and Society. This should be of interest to many men as well as women. All ladies are invited and encouraged to bring their husbands or friends.

Retreat Committee Forming

Do you love getting away? Do you love family and friend time? Do you love nature? Do you love puzzles and games? Do you love relaxing? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, RETREAT 2013 is for you!

We had a record number of attendees at our retreat in Beersheba last August. Now, we are gearing up for another exciting adventure and are looking for people of all ages and ideas to serve on our Retreat Committee. Members will assist in planning and coordinating various aspects of our weekend together, so choose an area close to your heart and sign up today!

Please contact Leigh Ann at (615) 202-3937 or by email at lac723@comcast.net by February 28 if you are interested.

Safe Sanctuary Training

We are in the process of scheduling our second Safe Sanctuary training for those who couldn't make the first one. Watch your bulletins and newsletters for more information as it becomes available.



Children's Corner

Summer Camp Meeting

It seems too early, right? But summer camp is just around the corner, and we want to plan the best experience for our Crieveewood kids. If you have a child in 2nd through 6th grade, please plan on attending a brief Camp Meeting on Sunday, February 17 at 5 p.m. in the Searchers classroom (first one on the right as you come down the hall from the narthex). We will review options for each age group and talk about dates.

Easter Banners

The Children's Department would like to extend a special thank you to the Crieveewood Kids, led by Sharon Ferrell and banner designer, Rachel Leyers, for the beautiful banners hanging in each stairwell. The children are excited to be part of serving the church through these visual reminders of our risen Savior. Please be sure to see the banners, and give our kids (and Sharon and Rachel) a high-five for their efforts!

Nursery Schedule

	Toddler Nursery	Infant Nursery
2/17/2013	Jill and John Stevens	Carol Yarnell and Brenda Wheeler
2/24/2013	Jason and Alison Stoner	Adele and Brad White
3/3/2013	Kellyanne and Christy Shaw	Chris and Kelly Cates
3/10/2013	Kate Foltz and David Cate	Craig and Blake Leyers

Mark your calendars

for these exciting events geared specifically for your children:

Spring Festival—March 16, beginning at 9 a.m.

VBS—July 8-11 (4 nights from 5:45-8:00 p.m.)

Back to School Bash—August 17 beginning at 5 p.m.